

# Community Behavioral Health Promotion and Prevention Commission



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**Undersecretary for Health**  
**Executive Office of Health and Human Services**

**November 16, 2023**  
**3:00-4:30 pm**

**Virtual / Zoom**



# Agenda



- 1. Welcome and Oath of Office**
- 2. Open Meeting Law and Conflict of Interest Refresher**
- 3. Annual Report and Trust Fund Updates**
- 4. Statutory Changes within Chapter 177 of the Acts of 2022**
- 5. Upcoming Meetings and Next Steps**



# Oath of Office



## Oath of Office

I, *(STATE YOUR NAME)*, do solemnly swear that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and will support the Constitution thereof – So help me God.

I, *(STATE YOUR NAME)*, do solemnly swear and affirm that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent on me as a member of the Community Behavioral Health Promotion and Prevention Commission, according to the best of my abilities and understanding, agreeably, to the rules and regulations of the Constitution, and the laws of this Commonwealth – So help me God.

I, *(STATE YOUR NAME)*, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States.



# Open Meeting Law and Conflict of Interest Refresher



## Open Meeting Law

- The Commission's meetings are subject to the Open Meeting Law (OML) and must be held in public with notice of the meeting, including the agenda, provided to the public at least 48 hours in advance.
- In March 2023, Governor Healey signed into law a supplemental budget bill which, among other things, further extended temporary provisions pertaining to the OML to March 31, 2025. These provisions permit us to conduct our meetings remotely.
- The vast majority of the OML remains unchanged, ie, outside of a public meeting, members are limited in their communications (in person or via email) amongst a quorum (simple majority) of members regarding topics before this Commission.
- For any questions about the OML, feel free to reach out to Commission staff or contact the Attorney General's Division of Open Government directly at (617) 963-2540 or [openmeeting@mass.gov](mailto:openmeeting@mass.gov)
- Additional information can be found at: [www.mass.gov/the-open-meeting-law](http://www.mass.gov/the-open-meeting-law)



# Open Meeting Law and Conflict of Interest Refresher (cont.)



## Conflict of Interest

- By the very nature of their service on the Commission, members are considered “special state employees” and are subject to the State’s Conflict of Interest Law.
- In addition to familiarizing themselves with the details of the Conflict of Interest Law, members are required to undertake a [required online Conflict of Interest training](#) upon their appointment to the Commission and every other year thereafter. All certification forms should be sent directly to Commission staff to maintain in our records.
- Commission members should view the State Ethics Commission as a resource and are encouraged to contact the State Ethics Commission with any questions or concerns related to potential conflicts of interest and any required disclosures.
- The State Ethics Commission can be contacted at (617) 371-9500
- Requests for advice can also be submitted through the State Ethics Commission’s website: [www.mass.gov/orgs/state-ethics-commission](http://www.mass.gov/orgs/state-ethics-commission)
- Advice is confidential and cannot be provided for past conduct or for matters pertaining to a third party.



# Annual Report and Trust Fund Updates



## Annual Report

- The Commission's annual report for 2022 was submitted to the Legislature in October.
- Similar to the Commission's prior reports, the report was structured as a letter from the Commission's Chair, summarizing the group's activities from the prior year (March 1, 2022 to March 1, 2023).
- Copies of the report along with the Commission's meeting materials are available on the [Commission's Mass.gov webpage](#).



# Annual Report and Trust Fund Updates



## Trust Fund

- The Community Behavioral Health Promotion and Prevention Trust Fund has been growing steadily with the infusion of revenue from the State's vaping tax.
- To date, the Trust Fund has approx. \$14M, which the EOHHS Secretary may use to:
  - Support critical public health needs affecting children and young adults
  - For grants to community organizations to establish or support evidence-based and evidence-informed programs for children and young adults, in consultation with the Commission



# Statutory Changes within Chapter 177 of the Acts of 2022



## Chapter 177 of the Acts of 2022

- The Commission's charge was revised with the enactment of Chapter 177 of the Acts of 2022
- While the focus of the Commission remains unchanged – to promote positive mental, emotional and behavioral health and early intervention for persons with a mental illness, and to prevent substance use disorders among residents of the Commonwealth – the scope of the Commission was expanded to include a broad range of new responsibilities, most notably to serve in an advisory function to the Office of Behavioral Health Promotion (OBHP)





# Statutory Changes within Chapter 177 of the Acts of 2022 (cont.)



## Office of Behavioral Health Promotion

- In addition to revising the Commission's charge, the legislation established the Office of Behavioral Health Promotion (OBHP).
- EOHHS is in the process of standing up the OBHP and hiring its Director, which is currently being advertised on MassCareers:

<https://massanf.taleo.net/careersection/ex/jobdetail.ftl?job=23000C6Y>

- Given the position's focus, the OBHP has been structured under DMH, which will work hand in hand with the Director.
- The listing will remain open through November and may be extended or reposted if a suitable pool of qualified candidates has not been identified after the initial 30-day period concludes.



# Upcoming Meetings and Next Steps



Date	Time	Location
<i>February 2024</i>	<i>TBD</i>	Virtual / Zoom
<i>March 1, 2024 – Submission of Annual Report to the Legislature</i>		
<i>May 2024</i>	<i>TBD</i>	Virtual / Zoom
<i>August 2024</i>	<i>TBD</i>	Virtual / Zoom
<i>November 2024</i>	<i>TBD</i>	Virtual / Zoom
<i>February 2025</i>	<i>TBD</i>	Virtual / Zoom
<i>March 1, 2025 – Submission of Annual Report to the Legislature</i>		